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Howe and Allen's Birds of Massachusetts.¹—Messrs. Howe and Allen in a special work of about 150 pages have given us an excellent summary of the bird fauna of Massachusetts. It is in most respects so well done that we wish we could give it unqualified approval. Under the heading 'Faunal Areas of Massachusetts' the topographical features of the State are described and the life zones are discussed at some length with, naturally, little that is new in relation to this feature of the subject. Then follows an 'Annotated List of the Species' authentically recorded as found in the State, numbering 362, followed by supplemental lists of the extirpated species, numbering 4, and extinct species, numbering 2, and a list of 15 introduced species, while 15 are entered under the heading 'Erroneously Recorded.' Two additional species are placed in an 'Apocryphal List.'

The annotations include not only the usual notes on the relative abundance and times of migration, but detailed records for special localities, so that "individuals working in restricted portions of this topographically varied State will have, in many cases, annotations applicable to their particular region." No species is admitted into the 'List' that has not an authentic record, great care having been taken in this respect to weed out all unauthenticated species. The 'List' has thus several unusual features of utility and trustworthiness. We regret, therefore, all the more that the authors have taken it upon themselves to rearrange the 'List' according to their own preference of sequence, so that the ordinary student, familiar with the arrangement of the A. O. U. 'Check-List,' will find himself greatly at sea with the new order in the present catalogue. We also regret to notice that the authors have made "various changes in orthography for the sake of consistency." In other words they have in numerous instances departed from the usual orthography in a number of bird names, without, apparently, any uniform system of emendation, but simply 'emending' as they happened to feel like it. Their emendations, therefore, while not radical or numerous, are sufficient to give a distasteful flavor to their work; also certain suggested changes in nomenclature have been adopted, some of which are of doubtful advisability. The innovations in these respects serve, however, to give the work a certain personality, which is doubtless pleasing to the authors.

A bibliography and an index complete the work, the bibliographical list being restricted, as said by the authors, to papers relating exclusively to Massachusetts birds. —J. A. A.

¹The | Birds of Massachusetts | By | Reginald Heber Howe, Junior, | and | Glover Morrill Allen | Members of the Nuttall Ornithological Club | and | Associate Members of the American Ornithologists' Union | Published by Subscription | Cambridge, Massachusetts | 1901. 8vo, pp. 1-154.